

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1061

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 3809

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, HO

SUBJ: CURRENT STATUS OF EX-MINCON BENNATON

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 2747

1. THE APPEALS COURT SUSTAINED THE DECISION OF THE FIRST CRIMINAL COURT OF TEGUCIGALPA THAT THERE IS NOT SUFFICIENT PROOF OF EX-MINECON'S GUILT TO SUPPORT A CHARGE OF FISCAL FRAUD. ATTORNEY GENERAL HERNANDEZ APPEALED THAT DECISION TO THE SUPREME COURT. ON AUGUST 29 THE SUPREME COURT REJECTED THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S APPEAL.

2. THE CASE WILL NOW BE RETURNED TO THE FIRST CRIMINAL COURT FOR TRIAL. THE CHARGES AGAINST BENNATON WILL BE COHECHO (USING PUBLIC OFFICE FOR PERSONAL GAIN) AND INDIGNIDAD (OFFENSES AGAINST THE DIGNITY OF THE REPUBLIC). EVEN IF CONVICTED OF BOTH CHARGES BENNATON WOULD NOT RECEIVE A SENTENCE OF MORE THAN THREE YEARS AND CAN AVOID JAIL COMPLETELY BY PAYING A FINE OF APPROXIMATELY \$1,000. SANCHEZ

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Message Attributes

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